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Book Reviews

Comparative Religion, Its Genesis and Growth. By LOUIS HENRY JORDAN, B.D. (Edinburgh). Late Special Lecturer in Comparative Religion at the University of Chicago. With an introduction by PRINCIPAL FAIRBAIRN, D.D., LL.D., D.Litt. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1905. Pp. xix+668. \$3.50.

This book is not a study of religion itself, but of the origin and growth of the science of comparative religion. It touches the great questions of religion incidentally, by way of illustration only, but deals in an extended way with the genesis, the nature, and the place of the science which compares the different religions. The author explains that he was invited by the late lamented president of the University of Chicago to deliver a course of lectures on the rise and development of the science of comparative religion, that it was afterward suggested from many quarters that the lectures should be published, and that, if they were slightly recast and expanded, they could serve as a much desired university handbook on this subject.

The resulting volume is, indeed, a valuable handbook of great breadth of learning, written in an admirable spirit, affording an extended bibliography on comparative religion and related subjects, and giving a comprehensive view of the writers and teachers in this field in various parts of the world. It is a book for which we are profoundly thankful, notwithstanding the fact that it has some defects which are incidental to the manner of its composition. For example, one can understand why a lecturer to a general university audience should see fit to vindicate the applicability of the comparative method to the study of religion by citing in detail some thirty instances of its application to other subjects from comparative grammar to comparative agriculture—instances which occupy a whole chapter (chap. ii), but it is difficult to see what place such a chapter has in a handbook. One who desires to use such a book is already convinced of the utility of the method. Again, chap. x is devoted to the "Mental Emancipations" of comparative religion—a subject eminently fitting in a course of lectures, or in a theological magazine, but one which anyone sufficiently interested to use this handbook does not need. Certainly he will not need it, if he reads the first nine chapters sympathetically.

The book is divided into I "Prolegomena," chaps. i-iii, which treat of the advent, the distinctive methods, and the aim and scope of compara-

tive religion; II "Historical Preparation," chaps. iv, v, which are devoted to its tardy genesis, its prophets and pioneers; and III "Historical development," chaps. vi-xii, which are devoted to its founders, schools, auxiliary sciences, achievements, and bibliography. Forty-one notes are added as "Appendices." These range in subject from the origins of Judaism to Kaiser Wilhelm's pronouncement on the "Babel und Bibel" controversy. Four charts present to the eye a comparative view of the numerical strength of the great religions of the world, of their territorial distribution, and of the present position of comparative religion in the different universities of the world. The volume is supplied with copious indices.

Some features of the book deserve special commendation. One of these is the author's analysis of the various sciences which enter into the study of religion in chap. i. These are (1) the history of religions; (2) the comparison of religions, and (3) the philosophy of religion. The author rightly assigns his science to an intermediate place. He also recognizes with many others that the name "comparative religion" is a clumsy and unhappy one, but finds it too firmly fixed in usage to be discarded.

Another commendable feature of the book is that the author takes many of the illustrations of his principles from the history of Christianity. The reverent way in which this is done will help students to see that the divine element in the religion of Christ is independent of its historical shell, and that that shell shares in the features and the fortunes of the great religions of the world.

The list of workers in comparative religion and its auxiliary sciences is one of the most useful features of the book. Every student will become Mr. Jordan's debtor on account of this. However well one may know some parts of the vast field covered here, in other parts he will find the way pointed to material with which he is unacquainted. One wonders sometimes that some names are omitted. For example, Leuba finds no place among the writers on the psychology of religion. Probably this is because the author has confined himself to those whose investigations appeared in book form.

In general the estimate put by Mr. Jordan upon the writers in the different fields is justly appreciative and discriminating. One is compelled regretfully to note, however, that in speaking of archaeologists he has on pp. 279 and 493 been innocently led into error in his high estimate of the position of Professor Hilprecht. We justly appreciate Hilprecht's work in editing his all too few Old Babylonian Inscriptions, but one could easily name several scholars in Germany, France, England, and the United States who have made larger contributions of important texts than he.

When justice is done to Dr. Peters and Mr. Haynes for their work of excavation at Nippur, and to the work of Dr. Clay in admirably editing the majority of the texts from Nippur which have yet been published, Hilprecht's place is far below the "representative position" of "living archaeologists," which Mr. Jordan assigns him. As an antidote to this estimate every one should read Dr. Peters' article "The Nippur Library" in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. XXVI, pp. 145-64, and an article, which I suppose to be by Professor Rogers, entitled "The True Inwardness of the Case of Professor Hilprecht" in the *Christian Advocate* of August 10, 1905.

GEORGE A. BARTON

BRYN MAWR, PA.

The Jordan Valley and Petra. By WILLIAM LIBBEY, Sc.D., and FRANKLIN E. HOSKINS, D.D. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1905. 2 vols., with 159 illustrations. Pp. xv + 353, viii + 375.

Comparatively few accounts have been given of journeys east of the Jordan and into the region of the great rock city of the south. To the scanty literature of the subject an admirable addition has been made in these two volumes, the joint work of a professor of physical geography in Princeton University and a missionary resident at Beirut. The journey was made three years ago between February 4 and March 15, and included over six hundred miles on horseback, thirty-four of the forty-one days being spent east of the Jordan. The route lay through Sidon, over the Lebanon to Banias, south to the Sea of Galilee, then out into the eastern plateau and southward again through Jeresh, Hesban, Madaba, Diban, Kerak, Tafleh, and Shobek to Petra. Then after a side-trip to Mt. Hor the travelers retraced their way to Tafleh and then descended into the Arabah just south of the Dead Sea, passing Jebel Usdum, and so to Hebron and Jerusalem. The first volume brings the party as far as Kerak, and the greater portion of the second is devoted to Petra. An order from the waly of Syria at Damascus to the mutaserrif of Kerak smoothed out the difficulties on the way and provided protection, while three tents, ten natives, muleteers, guides, cook, and helpers, and as many beasts made up the camp equipment.

The narrative is full of interest, giving the reader not only detailed information regarding the points visited, but a comprehensive view of the entire Syrian region. The full-page photographs, of which there are nearly two hundred, are one of the most valuable features of the work. Especially helpful are those of Petra, and the various sections of the Madaba map.

The most important section of the work is that devoted to Petra. More